

In the Claims

Amended Claims 1 through 8 are as follows, and appear in an *unmarked* claim listing in Appendix C.

1. (Currently amended, having been once previously amended) A surgically modified nonhuman mammalian animal model comprising ~~an~~ nonhuman mammalian animal having a preoperative weight, a preoperative endogenous ghrelin production and a preoperative substantially normal animal gastrointestinal ~~system~~ tract that has ~~been surgically modified~~ undergone a surgical modification, wherein said surgical modification reduces the volume of ~~the~~ a stomach of said gastrointestinal tract that food enters and in which food is lodged while undergoing digestion in the stomach, and reduces the digestive area of said gastrointestinal tract; and, wherein postoperatively, said surgically modified nonhuman mammalian animal exhibits a substantially permanent reduction of said preoperative weight and a substantially permanent reduction in said preoperative endogenous ghrelin production.

2. (Currently amended, having been once previously amended) The nonhuman mammalian animal model of claim 1, wherein said nonhuman mammalian animal is selected for the surgical modification from the group comprising murine, ovine, porcine, caprine, canine, feline, and primate nonhuman mammalian animals.

3. (Currently amended, having been once previously amended) The nonhuman mammalian animal model of claim 1, wherein said nonhuman mammalian animal is selected for the surgical modification from the group comprising already existing transgenic murine, ovine, porcine,

caprine, canine, feline, and primate nonhuman mammalian animals.

4. (Once Amended) The nonhuman mammalian animal model of claim 1 wherein said animal is a Zucker rat.

5. (Currently amended, having been once previously amended) The nonhuman mammalian animal model of claim of claim 1, wherein said nonhuman mammalian animal is selected for the surgical modification from the group comprising already existing genetically modified murine, ovine, porcine, caprine, canine, feline, and nonhuman mammalian animals.

6. (Currently amended, having been once previously amended) The nonhuman mammalian animal model of claim 1, wherein said nonhuman mammalian animal is selected for the surgical modification from the group comprising already existing cloned murine, ovine, porcine, caprine, canine, feline, and nonhuman mammalian animals.

7. (Once Amended) The nonhuman mammalian animal model of claim 1, wherein said surgical modification is selected from the group comprising bariatric surgeries, biliopancreatic diversion, gastric banding, gastric reduction, gastric by-pass, gastrectomy, gastrocolostomy, gastroduodenostomy, gastroenterocolostomy, gastroenteroplasty, gastroenterostomy, gastroenterotomy, gastroesophagostomy, gastrogastrostomy, gastroileostomy, gastrojejunostomy, gastropasty, vertical banded gastropasty, intestinal bypass, restriction operations, and weight-loss surgery.

8. (Once Amended) The nonhuman mammalian animal model of claim 4 wherein said Zucker rat has undergone a Roux-en-Y gastroplasty.